

Decision ID:

PCCDJ

000646

2022

Decision title

Safer Communities Fund grants for 2022 to 2025 to reduce demand on frontline policing and make the streets of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight safer

Executive summary

This report provides information regarding the grants round for funding for 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2025 and makes recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner ('the Commissioner') regarding funding allocations.

The Commissioner has an ambition, through her Criminal Justice, Commissioning & Partnerships Team, for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to be two of the safest places to live, work and visit in the country. The Commissioner has set aside funding for the Safer Communities Fund to commission work to deliver her priorities of 'More Police, Safer Streets'. She will do this by securing the provision of projects and services that promote crime reduction, support victims and reduce demand on frontline policing through opportunities to apply for grant funding for projects and bid for contracts.

The opportunity to apply for funding under this grants round was launched on 1 December 2021 when the Commissioner invited organisations to apply for funding. This is to ensure that support is available to stop people, in particular young people, from being exploited and prevent them from becoming involved in crime and the criminal justice system. As well as supporting victims, reducing antisocial behaviour and ensuring support in the hard to reach rural areas of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The maximum amount of funding that could be applied for per application per financial year was as below:

- 2022/23 up to per project £30,000
- 2023/24 up to per project £40,000
- 2024/25 up to per project £40,000

There was no limit to the number of applications an organisation could submit however they needed to demonstrate that there was no

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duplication of geographical service provision within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The continuation of funding of for projects into 2024/25 is subject to the project performance during 2022 to 2024 and still being strategically relevant.

The application window was launched on 1 December 2021 and closed Friday 14 January 2022 at 13:00. The Commissioning Team received 99 applications across a number of themes and geographical areas totalling £8,014,894. This far outweighed the amount of funding available.

Recommendations

1. That the Police and Crime Commissioner agrees to approve the **45** grant awards at a cost of **£743,899**, as detailed in **Appendix 1** as the commissioning grants funding allocations for the period of 1 July 2022 – 31 March 2023. All of the grant awards recommended for approval represent the best value and prioritising of outcomes across the policing area, within the funds available.
2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner agrees to approve the **43** grant awards at a cost of **£979,304**, for the period of 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024, as detailed in **Appendix 1**.
3. That the Police and Crime Commissioner agrees to approve the **42** grant awards at a cost of **£961,616**, for the period of 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025, as detailed in **Appendix 1**, provided that officers are satisfied that the projects are performing well and continue to be strategically relevant.
4. That the Police and Crime Commissioner agrees to defer consideration of six applications detailed in **Appendix 2** while additional work is undertaken and agrees to ring-fence **£66,320** for these applications. The applications will be brought back to the Commissioner separately for a decision. All other bidders will be notified that their grant applications have been unsuccessful.

Statement on publication

This Decision Record and Decision Request is suitable for publication. The supporting Decision Request appendices contain sensitive/confidential information and are therefore unsuitable for publication.

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Police and Crime Commissioner approval

I hereby **approve** the recommendation above.

Signature:



Name:

Donna Jones

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire

Date:

5-Apr-22

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Safer Communities Fund grants for 2022 to 2025 to reduce demand on frontline policing and make the streets of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight safer.

Requester details:

Requester: Pippa Mears

Role title: Grants Administrative Officer

1 Strategic context

The Commissioner has an ambition, through her Criminal Justice, Commissioning & Partnerships Team, to deliver her priorities of 'More Police, Safer Streets'. She will do this by securing the provision of services that promote crime reduction, support victims and reduce demand on frontline policing through opportunities to apply for grant funding for projects. The Commissioner has set aside funding for the Safer Communities Fund to commission work to deliver her priorities.

The Commissioner has already invested **£3,255,255 annually** in a number of contracts for the **2022/2025** period. The Commissioner has also invested a further £357,000 per year for the next three years to support the four Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton through Decision Request PCCDJ-000644-2022.

In order to support other services outside of those already in place, the Commissioner has pledge to support projects that empower partners and potential partners through the opportunity to apply for grant funding.

The amounts being recommended to allocate under this grants round are as follows:

- 2022/23 £743,899
- 2023/24 £979,304
- 2024/25 £961,616

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An additional £66,320 is being recommended to be ring-fenced for six applications that are to be deferred while additional work is undertaken.

Launch of the Safer Communities Fund

The opportunity to apply for funding under this grants round was launched on 1 December 2021 when the Commissioner invited organisations to apply for funding. This is to ensure that support is available to stop people, in particular young people, from being exploited and prevent them from becoming involved in crime and the criminal justice system. As well as supporting victims, reducing antisocial behaviour and ensuring support in the hard to reach rural areas of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

A 'Guide to applying for funding' document was made available which provided guidance on the available opportunities and exclusions when applying for funding. It also provided the eligibility criteria and information on how the applications would be scored.

The maximum amount of funding that could be applied for per application per financial year was as below:

- 2022/23 up to per project £30,000
- 2023/24 up to per project £40,000
- 2024/25 up to per project £40,000

There was no limit to the number of applications an organisation could submit however they needed to demonstrate that there was no duplication of geographical service provision within Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Applicants were strongly advised to approach their local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) representatives to seek support for their project. If the application was relating to domestic abuse or sexual crime, applicants were also advised to discuss their bid with the relevant local lead authority officer to ascertain if there was a need for such a service in their geographical area.

The application window was open for 29 working days and closed on Friday 14 January 2022, this was to allow extra time for applicants due to the Christmas period. A total of 99 applications were received, across a

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number of themes, and were worth a total of £8,014,894, far outweighing the amount of funding available.

Application Assessment Process

A rigorous process was followed to assess and score the applications. The first stage was to consult with the fourteen Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) from across Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Applications relating to the CSP's area were sent to the CSP managers in advance and then discussed with them at a Teams meeting to ensure that the Commissioning Team harnessed the knowledge and intelligence of those people with direct experience of what is needed in their area. The Commissioning Team also consulted with partners, such as the domestic abuse and sexual crime commissioners, who specialise in some of the themes the applications related to, avoiding duplication of services.

Theme leads and District Commanders from Hampshire Constabulary were also consulted about each application on the need and suitability of the project being applied for. This information was fed into the evaluation and scoring process.

The applications were assessed following clear, fair and transparent process. They were scored using only the information provided within the applications against the criteria provided in the 'Guide to applying for funding' document.

Furthermore, applications have been scrutinised for suitability in financial terms, business costings and staffing provision. Using population and crime statistics, a fair and proportionate distribution of funding has been achieved, both between themes and geographical areas. This has been influenced, however, by the number of bids submitted. Where it is apparent there is a gap in service provided in certain areas, the Commissioning Team recommend further promotion of future grants rounds in these areas to reach more organisations.

Rationale for scoring

In order to ensure that the applications aligned with the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan priorities, priority was given to projects under the theme of Crime Prevention, Preventing Youth Crime and Exploitation, Reducing Offending and Tackling antisocial behaviour by having the lower threshold for a minimum score, whilst still ensuring that they did not provide a risk. The 'Guide to applying for funding' document advised that

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the key theme under this grants round would be the Preventing youth crime and exploitation theme and made it clear that the Commissioner was particular keen to support projects that reduced the number of young people committing crime and antisocial behaviour.

Any application that scored lower than the minimum score was then deemed unsuccessful and was not be recommended to the Commissioner for funding.

Any application that achieved the minimum score or above was then reviewed against other applications for the same geographical area to ensure there was a fair spread across the 14 Community Safety Partnership areas. If it was deemed that there were too many projects for the same theme in a geographic area, the views of the Community Safety Partnership were considered in prioritising applications. Consideration was then taken on the level of funding requested and how the project could be delivered with a certain reduction in funding, either 25% reduction or 50% reduction, if necessary. The assessment of the 99 applications has resulted in the recommendation that the allocation across the Commissioning Themes are as follows:

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Table 1 - Breakdown of proposed funding by Commissioning Theme

Commissioning Theme	Number Proposed for 2022/23	Amount Proposed for 2022/23	Number Proposed for 2023/24	Amount Proposed for 2023/24	Number Proposed for 2022/23	Amount Proposed for 2022/23
Crime Prevention	4	£31,545	4	£43,525	4	£44,860
Equality and Inclusion	1	£12,000	1	£16,000	1	£17,000
Hidden Harm	1	£24,000	1	£32,000	1	£32,000
Preventing Youth Crime and Exploitation	23	£417,636	23	£585,673	23	£589,450
Reducing Reoffending	7	£122,650	6	£129,000	6	£129,200
Tackling Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)	3	£23,800	2	£20,670	2	£21,170
Violence Against Women and Girls	6	£112,268	6	£152,436	5	£127,936
Total	45	£743,899	43	£979,304	42	£961,616

Further information regarding the breakdown of the applications against theme and geographical area can be found in **Appendix 3**.

Performance Monitoring and Evaluation

Performance information will be collected on a quarterly basis from each project and assessed by the Business Team in conjunction with the Criminal Justice, Commissioning & Partnerships Team.

If any questions arise or discrepancies are found within the performance information, these will be raised with the grant recipient to answer. If further information is required to evidence/support the performance of the project, it will also be requested from the grant recipient.

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Furthermore, the project may be visited (in person or virtually) by members from the Business Team to observe delivery first hand, talk with service users and meet the team delivering the project.

The level of data requested in relation to each individual project will increase in line with the level of funding they receive. All projects will also be asked to provide a case study per annum and every six months a financial breakdown of how they have used their funding.

These data requirements are detailed in the grant agreement that each project receives.

Lessons learned

CSP leads would like to receive a report on the performance of all projects funded in the previous grants round in order to inform their decision making when giving their support to projects in future grants rounds.

2 Options appraisal

There are two ways in which the Commissioner supports services. Grants with grant agreements and procurement leading to contracts.

Grants are generally more flexible, short term and for less money than contracts. They are less rigorous in terms of specification and are therefore more appropriate for smaller voluntary organisations providing local services.

Contracts are appropriate for core services which the Commissioner wants to ensure are available, often to safeguard the people most vulnerable to crime. Contracts require a rigorous and open procurement process with a clear specification.

3 Timescales

The funding for the Safer Communities Fund is for the period of 1 July 2022 and 31 March 2024, with an option for an additional 12 months funding if the projects are performing well and are still strategically relevant. Applicants will be informed of the result of their application at the end of April, with grant agreement forms being sent out shortly after.

It is important that this Decision Request is agreed by the mid-April so that applicants can be made aware of the result at the end of April

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allowing them time to either start planning their project implementation, or if unsuccessful put provisions in place to scale back their project.

4 Financial and resourcing implications

This proposal has financial implications of £2,684,818 over a three year period and it is recommended that the funding be allocated from the Commissioning budget.

The funding will be provided to the successful applicants for either nine months, one year and nine months or two years and nine months only (subject to the funding periods applied for) and there will be no expectation of future funding. At the end of the funding period, applicants will be required to apply for funding again under a fair and transparent process.

Total cost	£2,684,818
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Timeframe funding required for	July-2022 to March-2025
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Table 2 - Funding allocation in each financial year

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Capital	£0	£0	£0
Revenue	£743,899	£979,304	£961,616

Table 3 - Funding source - Capital and Revenue

	Capital (insert 'Yes' if applicable)	Revenue (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
Transformation reserve		
Commissioner's reserve		
Commissioning budget		Yes
Approved capital programme		
General fund		

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5 Communications and engagement implications

Following the agreement of the proposed funding allocations, detailed discussions between the Business Team and the Criminal Justice, Commissioning & Partnerships Team will be required to ensure that information around the successful applications is circulated in the most appropriate way. Information on all the successful applications will also be provided to all relevant partners.

The projects supported by the Commissioner will be given a sharper focus and will be promoted as much as possible to the communities of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The website and social media will be a key tool in the promotion of the work of each individual project supported by the Commissioner.

The Business Team have been involved in the drafting of the Grant Agreement to ensure that, where appropriate, the Commissioner's branding is used in connection to the projects that are being funded.

6 Legal implications

Under S.143 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Commissioner may provide or arrange for the provision of services to secure or contribute to securing crime and disorder reduction or which help victims or witnesses of, or other persons affected by, offences and antisocial behaviour. These arrangements may include the making of grants subject to such conditions as the Commissioner thinks appropriate. Funding awards will be subject to a written agreement setting out the terms and conditions on which payment is made.

7 Risks and mitigation

The process used to assess the applications has been rigorous and transparent and fully in accordance with guidance from Internal Audit. Applications have also been scrutinised for sustainability in financial terms, business costings and staffing provision. Furthermore, funding allocations have also been allocated using a fair and proportionate distribution between themes and geographical areas using population and crime statistics, where possible.

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8 Strategic policing requirement

The investment in projects and services to support victims of crime and reduce offending will contribute towards reducing the demand on policing across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Members of Hampshire Constabulary were consulted on all of the applications made under the Safer Communities Fund regarding the need and suitability of the projects. This was fed into the scoring process for each application. This process has allowed the Criminal Justice, Commissioning & Partnerships Team to further consider policing priorities and ensure that the applications support and reduce the demand on frontline policing.

9 Equalities

Every applicant is asked to outline, and is assessed on, how their project will contribute towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination, the advancement of equality of opportunity for everyone, including those having a protected characteristic and the fostering of good relations between all including those having a protected characteristic. Applicants were asked to provide specific information on how their project worked with, or could be adapted to work with, people with protected characteristics. A question was also included, and scored against, to ascertain whether a project was inclusive of persons with a relevant protected characteristic or if it excluded any group. If the project did exclude any group, the organisation was asked to outline the basis of the exclusion to ensure that the use of an exemption was a proportionate means to achieve a legitimate aim.

This was also included in the Guide of Applying for Funding document as an application theme. The Commissioner invited applications specifically for innovative projects that supported equality and inclusion, within the criminal justice system and supported services for victims, for people with protected characteristics.

The responses within the applications were taken into account during the assessment process and scored according to their response. Any application that did not score at least an 'adequate' score for the Equality & Inclusion questions were deemed unsuccessful as they did not meet the Commissioner's legal obligations set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (Public Sector Equality Duty). Therefore all of the recommended

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applications met the standard required in order to satisfy the Commissioner's public sector equality duty under s149 of the Equality Act 2010.

10 Data Protection implications

The only General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) implications associated with this decision request is that the Criminal Justice, Commissioning & Partnerships Team holds the information of the organisations that applied for funding under this grant round. This includes names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and bank details for the successful applicants. This information is stored and will be destroyed according to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office's data security policy.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office will not hold any personal information of service users of the projects funded through the Safer Communities Fund. This will be held by the organisations providing the projects and each organisation funded complies with GDPR regulations as per their safeguarding checklist and grant agreement.

11 Publication status

This report is suitable for publication.

Appendices 1-3 contain confidential information and are therefore unsuitable for publication.

12 Personnel consulted

The following personnel were consulted on the Decision Request.

Table 4 - Personnel consulted

Role	Organisation	Confirmation of consultation (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner	OPCC	
Chief Executive	OPCC	Yes
Deputy Chief Executive / Criminal Justice Portfolio Lead	OPCC	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	OPCC (HCC)	Yes

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Role	Organisation	Confirmation of consultation (insert 'Yes' if applicable)
OPCC/Hampshire Constabulary liaison	OPCC/HC	Yes
Head of Strategic Commissioning and Partnerships	OPCC	Yes
Head of Communication and Engagement	OPCC	Yes
Head of Performance and Information	OPCC	Yes
Head of Standards and Compliance	OPCC	Yes
Head of Estate	OPCC	Yes
Programme Office Manager	OPCC	Yes
Accountant	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
Deputy Monitoring Officer	OPCC (HCC)	Yes
Head of Strategic Procurement	HCC	Yes
Commissioning and Partnerships Officer	OPCC	Yes
Data Protection Officer	OPCC	Yes

OPCC - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

HCC - Hampshire County Council

HC - Hampshire Constabulary

13 Appendices

Appendix 1 Proposed applications being recommended for funding (Official Sensitive)

Appendix 2 Proposed deferred applications (Official Sensitive)

Appendix 3 Breakdown of Applications and Proposed Funding Allocations 2022/23 to 2024/25 (Official Sensitive)

14 Background papers

The Guide to Applying for Funding.